

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 16, 2014**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:08 PM**

**Room 118
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

**Present: Bruce Menin, Steve Cole, Cheryl Sweeney, Mayor Donna Holaday,
Nick deKanter, Audrey McCarthy, Michael Luekens**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this point Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney took over chairmanship of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions:

Warrants:

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To approve receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$32,749.98

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$255,951.89

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday voted present

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney introduced the NHS Girl's Lacrosse team, who recently won the State Championship. The team introduced themselves and the graduating seniors stated their future plans. All those present gave these young ladies a standing ovation.

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- ⤴ Field Day was canceled due to rain. A successful pep rally was held for the Lacrosse team.
- ⤴ The Lacrosse team won the State Championship.
- ⤴ The Book Awards/Move-up Day were held last Friday.
- ⤴ We are now in the middle of final exams.
- ⤴ The last day of school is June 19th.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR CONCERN: He commented on PARCC vs. MCAS, the pros and cons. He stated we have two years and we still need to pass MCAS to graduate.

REQUEST FOR FACILITY USE ON SUNDAY MORNING:

Michael St. Laurent from LOCO Sports, Inc. presented the request to the Committee for the use of the

NHS Gym on Sunday, September 14, from 5:30 AM to 1:00 PM, which will be used for a large All Women's road race, a half marathon that starts in Newburyport and runs through West Newbury and back. The race is in its 4th year and already approved by the Newburyport Police and the Town of West Newbury. The Gym will be used for runners to register, pick up their race packets and shirts, and sit around and stretch before the race. The race also will conduct a Wellness expo after the event on the front lawn in small pop up tents. The expo will be open to everyone and they hope to attract other Newburyport residents to the expo who can take advantage of the wellness booths offered.

Motion:

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve the request by LOCO Sports, Inc. for the use of the NHS Gym on Sunday, September 14, from 5:30 AM to 1:00 PM for an All Woman's half marathon road race. The race will also conduct a Wellness expo after the event on the front lawn of the school.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SAFIS: FINGERPRINTING:

Superintendent Viccaro stated this will be brought up at the next meeting.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney inquired as to what was the charge to the Policy Committee – ask the Superintendent to provide policy.

Nick deKanter asked if it would be possible to bring someone to Newburyport to do this all at once. Superintendent Viccaro said not right now.

Steve Cole spoke re: someone who might be trained.

Mayor Holaday inquired as to the cost. \$35 or \$55 paid for by the individual.

Mayor Holaday questioned re: bus drivers.

Bruce Menin said Policy will take this up.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS:

New Bresnahan Joint School Council:

Principals Amy Sullivan and Kristina Davis together updated the Committee on the New Bresnahan School Improvement Plan, which included the following:

- ⤴ Implementing the Five Steps of the MMSEE
- ⤴ Data Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination
- ⤴ Aligned Daily Instruction Design
- ⤴ Building Strong Community Relationships
- ⤴ School Climate and School Safety

Discussion:

Steve Cole questioned Baseline Education/Longleaf Solutions data system – what is cost? Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik commented on Teacher Evaluation/Student Analytic – approx. \$14,000.

Michael Luekens questioned ELA math performance, 3rd grade – measures of success – analysis – look at this.

Bruce Menin questioned the following:

- ⤴ DDMS – where are we? Ms. Bik said pretty much there. Core content have been built – submitting to State this week.
- ⤴ Data analysis
- ⤴ Building strong community – how is data being shared. Ms. Sullivan explained.
- ⤴ Early intervention. Ms. Sullivan explained.

Nick deKanter questioned the following:

- ⤴ NAEYC accreditation – are there any other kindergartens in town that have this accreditation? Ms. Sullivan explained.
- ⤴ How many units were done? (MCU) – Ms. Davis explained.
- ⤴ Units – how long? Ms. Davis said they vary.
- ⤴ What is being done to recognize and keep alive the memory of Brown/Kelley Schools. Ms. Sullivan explained they have prepared a time capsule; they had a get together for former staff at the Brown School. There are a group of people working to keep memories of all schools in Newburyport.

Mayor Holaday questioned the following:

- ⤴ Mass. Kindergarten assessment – when? Ms. Sullivan explained – initial training is tomorrow.
- ⤴ Phonics writing. Ms. Davis explained.

Cheryl Sweeney addressed all Principals – she stated the Committee appreciated their dedication – any help that the Committee can give, they only need to ask. She extended thanks from the School Committee.

MOLIN SCHOOL COUNCIL:

Molin School Principal, Tara Rossi, updated the Committee on the Molin School Improvement Plan, which included the following:

- ⤴ Implementing the Five Steps of the MMSEE
- ⤴ Data Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination
- ⤴ Aligned Daily Instruction Design
- ⤴ Building Strong Community Relationships
- ⤴ School Climate and School Safety

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney asked for an explanation of the Aligned Daily Instruction model.

Bruce Menin questioned the following:

- ⤴ Data collection analysis – looking at 6th graders too? Yes
- ⤴ Piloting NY math curriculum – what are you seeing? The Principal explained.
- ⤴ Anti-bullying – engaging bystanders is great – how do you know its sticking. Because the students are discussing it.

Michael Luekens questioned assessment PARCC – how did it go? For the most part it went off without a glitch – tech support was great – students seemed to go with the flow.

R.A. NOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNCIL:

Principal Beth Raucci updated the Committee on the R.A. Nock Middle School Improvement Plan, which included the following:

- ⤴ Implementing the Five Steps of the MMSEE
- ⤴ Data Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination
- ⤴ Aligned Daily Instruction Design
- ⤴ Building Strong Community Relationships
- ⤴ School Climate and School Safety

Principal Raucci stated she was proud of her staff. One of the things she was proud of was her Grade 6 students, who collected 7,000 pairs of shoes, and sponsored a walk-a-thon, the proceeds of which (\$11,000) sponsored a well in Africa, that 350,000 people will drink from.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin stated he appreciated hearing about getting the kids out into the community. He had a question concerning the School-wide Plan – executive functions strategy and asked for an explanation. He said he was glad to see it.

Steve Cole spoke regarding foreign language – he was upset as nothing is in the plan regarding this. He asked what have we achieved and what will we achieve next year? Answer – one teacher has 565 students – they have Ipads. This is part of the Explore rotation, She would like to see 1.0 at every grade level.

NHS SCHOOL COUNCIL:

Principal Mike Parent updated the Committee on the NHS School Improvement Plan, which included the following:

- ^ School Culture
- ^ Academics offered
- ^ Evaluation Process

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney questioned the following:

- ^ Culture – restorative justice for athletes – in the next two years will this be open to all students? Principal Parent stated they started with athletes, but will continue on with the program.
- ^ Academic offerings – how many new staff would NHS need. Principal Parent said unknown, but right now a couple would be nice to start.

Nick deKanter questioned the following:

- ^ How is the science program going. Principal Parent said they hired strong new teachers – there is a lot of teamwork going on and rigor. Teachers are working collaboratively.
- ^ Scheduling process – surveys – what are you looking to learn? Principal Parent said we need to do our homework first, check on numbers; they have to be careful.
- ^ Senior Capstone project? Principal Parent said this will come in the 2nd year.

Steve Cole questioned the senior project – do you plan on having network support. This needs to be meaningful.

Bruce Menin questioned the following:

- ^ He was impressed with the range of things. He said it would be helpful to see a map of FTE's that NHS will need. Give us a road map that goes out 4 to 5 years. He said he was pleased with the pilot of the restorative justice program.
- ^ Resources – use of community – restorative justice
- ^ Sound system/light system – he suggested a person to speak to.
- ^ School Council – is there more we can do. Dr. Ralph Orlando, a member of NHS School Council said this school needs improvement – confront issues that are facing you.
- ^ Staff are working hard – need resources
- ^ Self-study – pay attention – longer plan.

Cheryl Sweeney asked the Committee if another meeting should be scheduled before June 30. She asked the Committee what they would like on the agenda for the next meeting, and did they want Public Conversation re: PARCC.

Bruce Menin wondered what kind of accommodations for PARCC re: Spec. Educ.

Mike Luekens asked what the cost to the district would be and what the difference in the time line would be.

Cheryl Sweeney asked when the next meeting should be scheduled.

Steve Cole commented that this goes beyond the Committee. A meeting should involve parents, teachers and the community – pros and cons.

Date – July 1st tentatively.

NEASC REPORT

Principal Mike Parent presented the Committee with the letter from the New England Association of

Schools & Colleges, Committee on Public Secondary Schools, giving a synopsis of the decennial evaluation report from the recent visit to Newburyport High School. They voted to award NHS continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The letter stated the Evaluation Committee was impressed with many of the programs and services at NHS and included a lengthy list of items. The Committee requested that school officials submit a Special Progress Report by October 1, 2014, providing detailed information on action taken to address the listed areas. All accredited schools must submit a required Two-Year Progress Report, which in the case of NHS is due on October 1, 2015. The school's accreditation status will be reviewed when the Committee considers the Special Progress Report.

Mayor Holaday, on behalf of the Committee extended congratulations to Principal Parent and stated this was a commendable report.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS GOODS & FURNISHINGS AT THE BRESNAHAN & BROWN SCHOOLS:

Cheryl Sweeney stated that the Committee must take a vote to declare any unused goods and furnishings at the Bresnahan and Brown Schools to be surplus for the purposes of recycle/dispose, yard sale, etc.

Motion:

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: That pursuant to the Uniform Procurement Act found in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 308, the School Committee of the Newburyport School District hereby designates various classroom materials and furnishings from the current Bresnahan School, Brown School, and Nock-Molin Schools including but not limited to desks, chairs, shelving, etc. as surplus property, no longer needed by the City for such purposes or for other public purposes.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

On a motion by Audrey McCarthy and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the School Committee at 10:08 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously